

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1996 • ELUL 15, 5756 • 16 RABIA 2, 1417

NIS 6.70 (Eilat NIS 5.70)

The Jerusalem Post

**WEATHER**

Jerusalem 17-30  
Beersheva 18-30  
Tel Aviv 22-30  
Haifa 22-30  
Ashdod 22-30  
Givatayim 18-30  
Ramat Gan 18-30  
Netanya 18-30  
Ashdod 22-30  
Givatayim 18-30  
Ramat Gan 18-30  
Netanya 18-30

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear with a change in temperature.

See back page  
MAZADA TOURS

Jordan & Egypt

## Soldier killed in clash with Hizbullah

A GIVATI Brigade soldier was killed in what appears to have been a close-range clash with Hizbullah gunmen inside the security zone.

There were no immediate reports of casualties among the attackers, who were apparently planning a large-scale attack on IDF and SLA troops.

The clash occurred near Jabal Balat village, not far from the border, at around 5 p.m.

According to military sources, Givati soldiers were on operational duties in the area when they encountered a terrorist squad.

In the ensuing gunfight, one soldier

was killed.

Hizbullah gunmen also fired mortars at the same area, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said there were heavy exchanges in the area,

with the IDF firing at least 100 artillery rounds.

There were also reports of intensive IAF activities, with planes dropping flares and helicopters searching for the retreating gunmen.

The reports said most of the artillery fire was directed towards Yatar, north of the security zone, which has been a hotbed of hostile activities for many years.

According to reports from the zone, two Lebanese civilians were wounded as a result of Hizbullah mortar fire

toward an IDF position in Sakhnin. They were evacuated to hospitals in Israel.

The firing continued into late last night, as IDF troops extended their search for the gunmen.

Since the beginning of the year, 19 IDF soldiers have been killed in south Lebanon.

DAVID RUDGE



Police patrol the streets of eastern Jerusalem yesterday during the Palestinians' four-hour strike.

(Brian Henders)

## Police brace for unrest on Temple Mount

### 100,000 expected to heed Arafat's call

HUNDREDS of extra policemen are being brought into Jerusalem today, as security forces brace for possible unrest on the Temple Mount, after Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called on Muslims to converge there for Friday prayers.

"We are taking [Arafat's call] seriously," Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

JON IMMANUEL, BILL HUTMAN and RAINE MARCUS

and Israeli Arab Muslims to come pray at the Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount. Those who cannot reach Jerusalem were told to gather at the checkpoints at the entrance to the city.

If they are turned back, they may go and pray on land designated for expropriation by the Israeli authorities, to protest settlement expansion. The PA Information Ministry yesterday called for the establishment of local committees to fight land expropriation.

Hassan Tahboub, head of the Higher Islamic Council, said that if a total closure was not imposed, over 100,000 Palestinians would come to Al-Aksa. Police have recommended that a closure be imposed.

A four-hour general strike in the autonomous areas, the first PA-sanctioned protest against Israel since the Oslo Accords, took place yesterday without incident, but Palestinian officials made clear the protests could escalate if current Israeli policies continue.

Arafat asked both Palestinian

that Esmat Abdel-Meguid, the Egyptian secretary-general of the Arab League, phoned him to say he planned to convene a meeting of the league's foreign ministers on the crisis.

Arafat not only called on Palestinian schools to devote the first lesson of the school year on Sunday to Palestinian rights in Jerusalem, but for the Islamic world to declare a five-minute strike in solidarity with Palestinian and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

Palestinian shopkeepers in eastern Jerusalem shut down their shops for four hours yesterday morning during the general strike. Sultan Suleiman and Salah A-Din streets, the normally crowded main thoroughfares just outside the Old City, were virtually empty during the strike, which lasted from 8 a.m. until noon.

In most towns in the territories the strike was observed. In Gaza there were reports of policemen

(Continued on Page 20)

## PM-Arafat meeting soon, official says

DAVID MAKOVSKY

There are "no untoward events," it could be a meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "very soon," an official in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday. He refused to elaborate, however.

In a bid to ease mounting tensions, Israel and the Palestinians yesterday agreed to convene the

new steering committee next week to further the implementation of Oslo II. Netanyahu also dispatched a personal envoy to Ramallah to see Arafat.

In a third set of Israeli-Palestinian meetings yesterday, Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser Dore Gold, along with Israeli negotiator Dan Shomron, met pri-

vatly with top Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas last night. Despite this, officials are concerned that there may be unrest today during the Muslim prayers at Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount, following Arafat's call for Muslims to hold mass prayers there as a sign of their identification with Palestinian rights in

Jerusalem.

At a session yesterday afternoon, both Shomron and Palestinian coordinator Saeb Erekat pledged the steering

(Continued on Page 3)

Winning cards

Monday's Mifal Hapais... the king of clubs.

ayed ct

ppy with panel

stitutes earned crime

## Clinton nominated

CHICAGO (AP) - President Bill Clinton put the final touches on the speech kicking off his re-election campaign yesterday, even as his trouble-free convention was distracted by the resignation of his top political adviser.

Clinton set the tone for his last campaign, spelling out how he would take the country into the next century. "The best is yet to come, the best days for America," he promised.

His voice hoarse, his acceptance speech still being polished, Clinton remained out of sight as the Democratic delegates who nominated him Wednesday night awaited the climactic session of their national convention to formally renominate him for the race against Republican challenger Bob Dole.

Full report, Page 6

'Post' Net site in top 10

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Jerusalem Post's Internet edition has been rated among the world's top 10 online news sources by readers of the prestigious AJR NewsLink service of the American Journalism Review.

In 23rd place in an online survey last December, the Post's Internet edition (<http://www.jpost.co.il>) rose to an impressive seventh (Continued on Page 20)

North American Newsstand Prices for J.P. Friday Edition NY, NJ: \$3.00 Canada: CDN \$5.00 +TAX Elsewhere: \$4.00

| SHABBAT   | BEGINS | ENDS |
|-----------|--------|------|
| Jerusalem | 6:29   | 7:44 |
| Tel Aviv  | 6:47   | 7:46 |
| Haifa     | 6:40   | 7:46 |
| Beersheba | 6:45   | 7:42 |
| Eilat     | 6:43   | 7:43 |

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# Jordanian PM meets Arafat in Ramallah

JON IMMANUEL

JORDANIAN Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti flew into Ramallah by helicopter yesterday for a two-hour meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to demonstrate solidarity with the PA on the peace process.

Israel that the peace process was in crisis. Kabariti called for a "Jordanian, Arab, and international effort to get out of the bottleneck of this crisis." He agreed with Arafat over its cause, citing settlements, the closure, and the slow pace of talks. He said Jordan would not let Israel harm Moslem rights in Jerusalem. Arafat said a letter from King Hussein had condemned attacks on Jerusalem holy sites. Kabariti agreed that "we can never accept any justification for the process of settlement expansion," and expressed support for a Palestinian state. "We want to reach a permanent solution and turn to the final negotiations to see a Palestinian state in its natural place."



Yasser Arafat bids farewell to Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel-Karim Kabariti after their meeting in Ramallah yesterday.

## Sheikh Yassin hospitalized with pneumonia

SHEIKH Ahmed Yassin, 61, the jailed spiritual leader of Hamas, is being treated for a mild case of pneumonia, officials said yesterday. He was taken from Ramle Prison to Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin. The transfer was made amid great security, including placing security personnel on the hospital roof. Yassin, a quadriplegic, was returned to the prison hospital after a few hours, and will be treated with antibiotics, said Nurit Nehemia, spokeswoman for Assaf Harofeh.

He has a slight case of pneumonia. He was brought here as a precaution, because he suffers from chronic infectious blockage of the respiratory tract," she said. Yassin was arrested in 1989 and sentenced to life in prison for urging his followers to kill Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. In the past, some security personnel have argued that Yassin should be released from prison because of his poor health. (Iim)

## Israeli Arabs unlikely to flood Temple Mount despite Arafat's call

DAVID RUDGE

ISRAELI Arabs are unlikely to heed the call by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for a mass pilgrimage to the Temple Mount today, after rejecting his call for a general strike.

And we have those who lead the Arab sector and as long as we have that we don't accept any instructions from outside," said Suleiman, who is head of the Mash'had local council, near Nazareth. Regarding Arafat's call on Israeli Arabs to make a mass pilgrimage to the Temple Mount today, Suleiman said it was a matter of conscience.

"Usually, people go there in a spontaneous manner. We don't go there in an organized manner and no decision has been taken to do so," said Suleiman. According to Arabs in Nazareth yesterday, the call by Arafat will not be heeded. They echoed the comments of Suleiman, saying that only those who wish to do so will go to the Temple Mount to pray.

## Husseini: Palestinian leaders likely target of street anger

BILL HUTMAN

THE anger among Palestinians over the stalled peace process is more likely to be vented against Palestinian leaders who have supported the Oslo Accords than against Israel, Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, warned yesterday.

"I feel that there is an explosion coming, and I will be the first victim of it," said Husseini, just back from a trip to Amman and Damascus, in an interview at Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

"All those who have defended the peace process are in danger... the leadership, the peace activists," he said. "We are in a position in which we cannot defend the peace process in front of our people. The whole idea of making peace, of having life together, is also in danger now."

"We must take steps to prove that the peace process is still alive," Husseini said. He said he was in Jordan and Syria to tighten Palestinian Authority ties with the governments "and other groups there." The trip was reportedly the first visit to Damascus by a senior PLO leader since the signing of the Oslo Accords.

"We are searching for more coordination between us and the other Arab states, and more cooperation between the Palestinian groups," Husseini said.

Both Israelis and Palestinians have been too quick to predict a

renewal of the intifada, when in fact what lies ahead "is something new... No one knows what will be the results of this explosion," he said.

"The intifada was a special case. Maybe it can be more than the intifada, less than the intifada, I don't know," he said.

Israel must meet its commitments under the interim agreement, including redeploying in Hebron, Husseini said. But even more importantly, the government must "stop threatening the Palestinians' natural right to live in Jerusalem."

Husseini reiterated long-standing Palestinian charges that Israel is systematically preventing Palestinian development in Jerusalem, citing the demolition of an a club for disabled children in the Old City earlier this week as the latest example.

City and government spokesmen said the demolition was not politically motivated, but simply part of a policy that allows neither Jews or Palestinians to build without permits. Husseini charged that Palestinians have no choice but to build illegally, because the municipality makes it virtually impossible for them to receive building permits.

"If a home is built on a street or something, then I say, all right, this should not be allowed. But not when someone is building because he can't get a permit" because of discriminatory policies, Husseini said.

## In Bethlehem, the anger is palpable

JON IMMANUEL

IN Bethlehem's Manger Square, a coffeehouse owner peered through half-open shutters. She knew there was a strike, but she didn't know exactly why or what time it would end.

When she heard it was to protest the state of the peace process, she understood, and as the shutters started opening 10 minutes before the four-hour strike officially ended at noon, she explained that the peace process was a disappointment to her. Tourists did not stop at her coffeehouse, and she could not go to Jerusalem, 10 minutes away by car, without a difficult-to-obtain permit. "This is not real peace," she said. She did not mention settlement expansion, house demolitions, and other matters that bother more politically aware Palestinians.

The problem in Bethlehem is primarily economic and freedom of movement. Jewelers in the area say most of their business consists of buying the jewelry of women who need the money to sustain their families.

"We buy 30 percent more and sell 30 percent less than a year ago," said Nader Azzeh of the money-changer, the sale of shekels has dried during that same period.

"Nobody has shekels more," he said. "They sell" dinars, their savings, to buy food which they need to buy food with. The poverty of others has enriched the money changer. Sara says he owes NIS 5,000 for water, electricity, and telephone service supplied by Israeli companies during the past year. He just watches the debt grow and is thankful the utilities have not yet been shut off. "We have no work. We just open our shop to change the routine," he said.

A woman comes in and changes NIS 40 worth of dinars, and walks out with her daily bread.

There is almost a palpable nostalgia for the intifada, when, he said, they not only felt they had a political pride but were financially better off. Yet at the time, there was widespread talk of financial hardship, people living off food grown in their backyards, lost education, the brutality of soldiers.

The coffeehouse owner swears that during the intifada, when hardly three buses a day ventured into Manger Square, she had more customers, because though there were fewer tourists, they were the sort who stopped to talk.

With this kind of attitude in a relatively prosperous, politically moderate section of Bethlehem, it is not difficult to imagine what thoughts cross people's minds elsewhere.

The question which local people cannot answer is: If the peace process does not create a feeling of well-being, will the anger eventually turn against Israel, the Palestinian Authority, or both?

### Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 715651 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 658846 won a car.

Tickets numbered 689000, 107807, 883364, 087640, 023477, 388225, 615965, and 628757 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 46609, 54398, 53749, 62264, 41876, 56907, 75315, 74250, 52959, 68455, 56234, 68251, 02784, 13111, 85867, 90621, 31223, 52433, and 51709 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 091, 712, 802, and 855 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 99, 73, 85, and 65 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 96 and 65 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 3 and 6 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, the nine of hearts, the seven of diamonds, and the 10 of clubs.

**APOLOGY**  
There are no radio listings in today's *Time Out* due to technical difficulties. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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הלואה מן הלאה





# Don't alarm, don't soothe

MOSHE ZAK

**S**YRIAN military movements in Lebanon and threats from Damascus notwithstanding, Hafez Assad, that wily politician, has no intention of initiating a direct act of war against Israel.

The Syrian leader will not launch any long-range missiles against Israel or try to alter the cease-fire lines by seizing territory on the Golan, both of which could put him in a better negotiating position.

Assad will take care not to be the party to deliver the first strike — not because of any devotion to the peace process or his desire to improve relations with the Americans, but because he is fearful of an Israeli "second strike."

However, the minute Assad becomes convinced that Israel will hesitate to deliver that second strike — whether for internal or external reasons — the brakes that have prevented the slide into war will start to go.

Assad learned a lesson back in the Yom Kippur War: a surprise attack doesn't ensure that one will emerge victorious and grab land.

secular tussle has undermined national cohesion and Israelis' well-known solidarity in time of crisis. The Syrians could begin to feel that conditions not dissimilar to those existing on the eve of the Six Day War are evolving.

Back then there was a general feeling of gloominess in the country. An economic recession led to increased emigration. (A bit of black humor, popular at the time: Whoever is last to leave Ben-Gurion Airport should turn off the lights.)

This is the sort of atmosphere that nurtured the opinion in Arab capitals that it would take only one small push in get the world powers to impose a settlement detrimental to Israel.

SO IF Assad's aim isn't all-out military conflict, what does he intend? He is looking for some kind of military pretext that will make America and the countries of Europe intervene in the conflict and force a withdrawal from the Golan.

Assad has been after this for many years; it is only Israel's sec-

Far better to keep the suspicious Assad guessing and scared of Israeli retaliation to any act of belligerency

On the contrary, despite the favorable conditions that existed for Syria when it attacked Israel on October 6 1973, at the end of the war the IDF stood with its guns close to Damascus, and Israel actually increased its bold on the Golan.

Assad is smarter than his predecessors. In 1967 they caused an escalation on the Israeli-Syrian border, pushed Egypt's Abdel Gamal Nasser into blockading the Gulf of Eilat, then tried to wriggle out of participating in the war they had incited. This evasion did not, however, free them of responsibility for the war's outcome, and they paid the price on the Golan.

Assad is different. Already by the third day of the Yom Kippur War, he had asked the Soviets to broker a cease-fire, favoring foreign pressure on Israel that could lead to concessions over continuing the battle.

From a military point of view, Syria is not ready for a confrontation with Israel. But it could nevertheless be dragged into one through a miscalculation, if:

- Assad tries to draw operative conclusions from the theory he put to the Japanese foreign minister this week, namely that the Netanyahu government rests on only a small majority; if Assad fails to understand that a democratic government doesn't need 99 percent of the vote — the kind of majority he himself receives — for the entire nation to stand behind its army in time of danger, in this event a Syrian attack. Existing differences of opinion in Israel would not delay a swift second strike from the IDF.

The Syrian leadership assumes that Israel's hands are tied by the monitoring commission (composed of the US, France, Syria, Israel and Lebanon) for the implementation of the agreements reached following Operation Grapes of Wrath.

If the Syrians (mistakenly) believe that all Israel would do after a massive launching of Katyushas from Lebanese territory is submit a complaint to the commission, that belief could set in motion an escalation that would soon spiral out of either side's control.

Syrian intelligence believes that Israeli society is falling apart, that Israeli soldiers have lost their motivation, and that the haredi-

ond-strike option that has prevented him from taking that initial belligerent step.

How can we prevent an escalation of tension between Jerusalem and Damascus? Israeli reactions this week in response to Syrian pronouncements were neither wise nor helpful.

The opposition warned that the stalled peace talks were heightening the danger of war. But warnings like these do no good. They unwittingly aid those in Syria who claim that Israel is frightened and will hesitate to carry out a second strike. Indirectly, they fan the winds of war in Damascus.

From the government we have been hearing two kinds of voices — first warnings of a strong Israeli response to every strike from inside Lebanon (interpreted in Damascus as an Israeli threat of war), and later assurances, intended to allay Syrian fears, that Israel does not mean war.

Both kinds of pronouncements are superfluous. Syria doesn't need reminding that Israel will respond to any act of belligerency on its part, and there is no point in trying to calm Assad down via either indirect messages or public statements.

Assad is suspicious by nature, and he never takes anything at face value. He looks for the hidden intention behind every Israeli statement.

When someone in Israel remarks unnecessarily that Hizbullah has long-range Katyusha rockets, Assad takes this not as the foolish outburst it is, but draws the conclusion that Israel means to take action in Lebanon. So he begins moving troops inside Lebanon, and Israel is forced to monitor these movements.

Since Assad won't believe anything we tell him anyway, it would be far better to keep him guessing rather than exchanging public statements with him or sounding alarms while simultaneously trying to allay his fears.

Assad is no Metternich, but the way he behaves reminds one of when the wily Austrian was informed that the French statesman had died. He mused: "I wonder what Talleyrand meant by this."

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



ASAPK-BAAG

## In defense of the Supreme Court

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

**I**NTERIOR Minister Eli Suissa should immediately order the suspension of publication of the haredi newspapers *Hashavna* and *Yated Ne'eman*.

Their attacks on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak are, in the words of the Press Ordinance, "likely to endanger the public peace," taking into account the circumstances under which these attacks have appeared and the public to which they are directed.

The Press Ordinance dates from the British Mandate. With its administrative suspension powers, it was the product of Jewish demands after the 1929 Hebron massacres. In today's political climate, there is every reason for it to be invoked.

Suissa should act out despite the fact that he is a minister representing a religious party, but because of it.

In the long run, Suissa's Shas and the rest of the religious bloc will lose from any weakening of the independent judiciary as a bastion for the protection of minority rights. For the foreseeable future at any rate, the religious parties will remain a minority. They should not let their gains in the elections obscure this basic reality.

The worst eventuality, from their point of view, would be simple majority rule. Suppose, for example, the issue of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan were determined by national referendum. Would there be any doubt about the outcome?

Haredi demands for majority rule unfettered by judicial restraints are pure hypocrisy. They also represent a perverted sort of Americanization.

In the US, the judiciary is sometimes attacked as a counter-

majoritarian force. And in the American context, the argument makes sense.

In Israel, however, the religious bloc favors unrestricted Knesset and government rule, when it suits their purposes, only because under our present parliamentary system majority rule in the political branches of government is effectively held for ransom by the religious bloc. Direct election

The attacks by the haredi press on the court and on its president Aharon Barak are not just contemptible, they are crudely contrived

of the prime minister made matters worse by curtailing the parliamentary strength of the major parties.

If electoral reform continues to fail to break the religious political stranglehold, the idea of a national referendum for divisive issues may not be so farfetched. Would this serve religious interests better than an independent judiciary?

The defense of the Supreme Court should begin with the self-defense mechanisms of the judicial system itself. These are the devices by which the court protects itself from the necessity of dealing with issues best reserved for other times or other institutions. There is a particular need for a sifting of political questions in petitions to the High Court of Justice, as there is no prior sifting in the lower courts.

This isn't the first time the court has come under attack. Self-defense mechanisms served it well in fending off attacks a quarter of a century ago. A brief dip into history illustrates how judicial self-defense can function.

its own initiative. (Standing is an effective judicial defense mechanism against politically motivated cases initiated by individuals who have no direct interest.)

In later attempts to raise the yeshiva deferment issue for judicial determination, the court added to the standing argument's "who" the added defense mechanism of "what," the nature of the issue preselected, the so-called doc-

ments on grounds of standing or justiciability. Going to the merits of the case, Barak, today's "enemy of Judaism," decided that the deferment of yeshiva students was a proper exercise of the discretion of the defense minister.

In doing so, he threw open the doors to issues of high political sensitivity. The so-called public action, in which the petitioners are concerned citizens with no direct interest in the issues they are presenting for judicial determination, became legitimate. True, the court made itself more accessible, but at the same time more vulnerable, particularly with the enhanced powers conferred by the 1992 basic laws.

The court must reassert control over its own agenda. It must be able to protect itself from the need to decide matters not ripe for decision or better decided elsewhere.

Barak's proposal to refer the Bar-Ilan dispute to a public committee that would work toward an agreed solution was a step in this direction, and was welcomed as such by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party.

Against the background of the Bar-Ilan decision the attacks by the haredi press on the court and on Barak are not only contemptible, they are also crudely contrived.

They have nothing to do with Bar-Ilan or even with Barak. Their roots are in the power struggle within the religious camp itself.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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# Top Clinton adviser quits after prostitute report

JOHN KING  
CHICAGO

PRESIDENT Clinton's top political adviser, Dick Morris, resigned yesterday after a tabloid reported that he had a relationship with a prostitute and allowed her to eavesdrop on calls to the White House. In a seven-paragraph statement issued by the White House, Morris said he resigned Wednesday night.

"While I served I sought to avoid the limelight because I did not want to become the message. Now, I resign so I will not become the issue," he wrote.

His response to the report itself: "I will not subject my wife, family or friends to the sadistic vitriol of yellow journalism."

It was an enormous distraction for Clinton just as he was preparing his evening address to accept the Democratic nomination.

In his statement, Morris called Clinton "a great president and a great man."

The timing of the episode could not have been worse for the president: Clinton was scheduled to accept the Democratic presidential nomination last night. Campaign meetings designed to focus on fine-tuning the president's speech instead were dominated by the Morris controversy.

Morris has always been a controversial figure in the White House, condemned by liberals who disagreed with his strategy of having Clinton coopt Republican issues. He is widely credited with engineering Clinton's political comeback by urging him to focus on more centrist themes like balancing the



US President Bill Clinton speaks to supporters after arriving in Chicago for the Democratic National Convention Wednesday night. (AP)

budget, welfare reform, anti-crime measures and community values.

The New York Post published an account of a story from the Star magazine that said two days before the start of the Democratic convention, Morris showed Sherry

Rowlands copies of the speeches Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Al Gore would deliver days later.

On another occasion early in their relationship, the paper said, Morris called the president and held out the

telephone so Rowlands could hear Clinton. "There was no doubt about it, it was The Man," the Star quoted her as writing in her diary. "I was finally impressed."

The Post quoted Phil Buntan, editor-in-chief of the Star as saying

Rowlands came to the tabloid with the information in mid-July and that "she kept this diary of all the things he told her." The Star, based in Troy, N.Y., is the newspaper which paid Jennifer Flowers for her account of her alleged affair

with then-Gov. Clinton. In the newspaper account, Morris referred to Clinton as "the Monster" because of his quick temper and called Mrs. Clinton "the Twister," saying it was because of her tendency to stir things up.

When the affair started, Rowlands was a \$200-an-hour escort, according to the Star. Later she quit the escort service and started a home and office cleaning service.

The news of Morris' demise swept through the White House staff, and was met with some relief. Morris had many enemies in Clinton's inner circle; his unparalleled access to the president and perceived arrogance rankled White House aides from the start.

Morris had worked for years as a consultant to Republicans, and Republican chairman Haley Barbour was silent. "If any of you guys think I'm going to rise to the bait, you're in the wrong place," he said.

Morris' alliance with Clinton dates back to the president's days as Arkansas governor. Since then, however, Morris has worked for many Republican clients, and many Democrats - including top White House aides - were furious when Clinton turned to Morris after the 1994 Republican midterm rout.

But even his harshest critics in the Clinton White House give Morris a good chunk of the credit for Clinton's comeback.

Morris also was among the circle of advisers who carried the day when liberal advisers urged Clinton to veto the Republican welfare reform measure because it ended the 60-year federal guarantee of federal aid to the poor. (AP)

# Russian plane crashes in Arctic, 141 feared dead

OSLO (Reuters) - An airliner carrying coal miners from Russia crashed into a mountain yesterday on the remote Arctic island of Spitzbergen and all 141 passengers and crew were feared to have died, Norwegian officials said.

Norwegian officials on Spitzbergen rejected a report from Moscow that five people had survived when the Tupolev jet crashed as it approached the island's only airport.

If all 141 people are confirmed dead, the crash would be the worst in Norwegian history.

The island governor's office said no survivors had been found and rejected the Russian report.

"This is totally unknown to us and wrong," it said. "In that case they must have walked away from the site without us noticing, so that has got to be wrong."

A spokeswoman for the Russian Emergencies Ministry said her ministry had a report from the crash site that five people may have survived the crash.

But a spokesman for Vnukovo Airlines, which owned the plane that was flying the miners to the Arctic settlement, could not confirm the report.

The accident occurred in bad weather 10 km east of Longyearbyen. The jet crashed at a remote site, with no roads nearby.

"No survivors have been found and our first aid staff are returning from the crash site," local government official Kjetil Hansen told reporters.

The plane had been chartered by coal mining company Trust Arktik Ugol.

The Norwegian aviation inspectorate said the plane was making a normal instrument landing and was in touch with Longyearbyen airport when it crashed.

# Secret documents say Nazis infiltrated Red Cross

ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN  
CHICAGO

THE International Committee of the Red Cross, which prides itself on being the non-political protector of those in dire need, is accused in previously secret Second World War documents of being used and "probably controlled" at its highest levels by German intelligence.

The US intelligence documents allege that ICRC representatives worked as agents conveying military information to Berlin, even using US diplomatic mail to get material out. They also allege Red Cross pouches were used to ferry German assets into Switzerland and the group itself was used to smuggle German agents across European borders.

Marked "Washington office items not previously released," the Office

of Strategic Services (OSS) documents were recently found in the US National Archives by World Jewish Congress researchers trying to trace assets of Holocaust victims. Copies of several documents were made available to Reuters.

In Geneva, ICRC spokesman Kim Gordon-Bates said: "We know that documents are being made available ... from various archives but we have not seen them and cannot comment on them."

But he added the Nobel Peace Prize winning group, by its mandate and the confidential and sensitive nature of its task, worked according to difficult ethical and practical

guidelines. It always tried to recruit the best people but mistakes could be made, especially during war, he said.

One OSS document, dated January 11, 1944, says: "A series of observations commenced by the French and continued by this organization indicate that the IRCC (sic) is probably controlled by the German IS (Intelligence Service). The German delegates to the IRCC in Geneva is known to be a German agent and the head of the IRCC to be German controlled."

The document adds: "Enough is known to warrant the assumption that any delegate of the IRCC should be considered a potential if not actual German IS agent." Another document, dated February 4, 1944, says: "Information has come from various sources which indicates that the International Red Cross may have a number of people in its organization and indeed, on its executive staff, who are either German agents or associates of German agents, and who are using the Red Cross ... as a cover for the securing and transmitting of military information."

The OSS was the wartime US intelligence agency and the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1995, the ICRC, which coordinates Red Cross work around the world, acknowledged for the first time its "moral failure" during the war - a reference to its failure to denounce atrocities against Jews and other minorities in Hitler's concentration camps.

A WJC spokesman said the more than 200 pages of documents had been turned over to the Senate Banking Committee, headed by New York Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, for investigation. They show deep Allied suspicions and distaste for how the Red Cross was conducting itself during the war.

# Leading hemophilia expert arrested in broadening AIDS scandal

TOKYO (AP) - A doctor once renowned as a national authority on hemophilia spent last night in jail, arrested on suspicion of giving a patient AIDS-tainted blood products even though he knew it was dangerous.

The arrest of Dr. Takeshi Abe, 80, was the first in an ongoing investigation into why authorities failed to act on evidence as early as 1983 that tainted blood products were causing AIDS.

Abe, a professor and former vice president of Teikyo University, served as head of a Health and

Welfare Ministry panel on AIDS in 1983-84, but persistently opposed quick approval for safe heat-treated blood products.

The heat treatments weren't approved until 1985. About 2,000 Japanese, mostly hemophiliacs, contracted the AIDS virus from the untreated products. Some 400 have died.

The arrest has shaken a nation where respect for doctors is high and malpractice suits are unusual. The scandal has also stammered the credibility of Japan's powerful government bureaucracy.

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האנא מן האלטר

# NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, August 30, 1996

7

## The case of the Orthodox vs. the High Court

**Death threats, political incitement and attempts to delegitimize the judiciary will not impede on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's unwavering libertarianism, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes**

"He seemed incapable of creating such chaos, but much of what he saw below could be blamed on him. He sat...in an office on the main floor of the Supreme Court building. His feet touched the edge of the window, and he strained forward as the noise increased. He hated cops but the sight of them standing in thick, neat lines was somewhat comforting. They stood straight and held ground as the mob of at least fifty thousand screamed for blood."

**T**HIS is not a scene from Israel's past, present, or future, but rather the first paragraph of *The Pelican Brief*—a legal thriller by John Grisham. As the book opens, controversial justice Abraham Rosenberg faces the opening of a new court term. As he watches the crowds in front of the courthouse, the elderly Rosenberg, booked up to an oxygen tank and a bit blind, asks his law clerk what is written on the signs the protesters are waving. "The usual," his clerk replies. "Death to Rosenberg. Retire Rosenberg. Cut Off the Oxygen." The justice responds with impatience: "They've been waving those same damned signs for years. Why don't they get some new ones?" The scene illustrates that rage against the power of the judiciary is not a unique phenomenon in democracies, and personalizing that anger in the form of threats to



Barak and his wife leave their Jerusalem home. Their security has been upgraded to a 24-hour watch by the GSS. (Brim Hendler)

individual justices is not unusual either. The United States, one of the world's strongest democracies has had its Supreme Court challenged in such strong language in recent decades, that writers like Grisham have not had to stretch their imaginations far to imagine such sentiments leading to violence—and indeed, in the first pages of the book Rosenberg and another justice are killed by a professional hit man hired by those who object to their rulings. But still, that is fiction and that is the United States. Perhaps, in a different year, in another decade, the recent attacks on Supreme Court justice Aharon Barak in *haredi* newspapers might be interpreted as anger from a fringe element who, for all their ferociousness, would not do any

harm. Even telephoned death threats against him would be seen as a phenomenon that goes with the powerful territory of being a Supreme Court justice. Real violence would still seem to be simply the stuff from which good novels are written. But this is not any other year. The country is still feeling the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin by a killer who seemed to many to be influenced and inspired by rhetoric coming out of the religious right. Yigal Amir's act, almost one year ago, was followed by months of national soul-searching and plenty of browbeating as to whether something could have been done and that if the verbal violence had been nipped in the bud, perhaps the

physical violence could have been prevented. And so, every word of the editorials which have appeared in *haredi* newspapers in recent days vilifying Barak, is taken seriously. After the publications, the airwaves were full of calls from politicians to do something to stop their publication. Taking up the call, the chief prosecutor's office has taken initial steps to investigate the possibility of taking criminal action against those writing the editorials. Proposals have also been made by politicians to close down the *haredi* newspapers. And nearly every public figure from the Bar Association to President Ezer Weizman has jumped to Barak's defense. Concrete steps to ensure Barak's

security have also been taken. Even though the court is in recess, security has been beefed up at the Supreme Court building. Personal security for the justice himself has been upgraded to a 24-hour watch by the General Security Service, his Rehavia apartment building is under constant guard, his telephone number, previously freely listed in the phone book, has been changed, and he has even had the wooden door on his modest apartment swapped for a steel one. WHAT HAS provoked this firestorm, was the recent High Court ruling which undermined the decision of the Transportation Ministry to close Rebov Bar-Ilan during Shabbat prayer times. The court ruled that until a public com-

### Barak on the importance of freedom of speech

**J**UDGING from Chief Justice Aharon Barak's past writings on decisions on issues regarding freedom of speech, it is highly questionable whether he would support censoring or punishing the *haredi* newspapers that have attacked him ideologically and personally. In a decision granting the performance of the controversial play *Efrahim Returns to the Army* after it was banned by the Film and Play Supervisory Board on the grounds of its "falsifying, provocative and insulting nature," he wrote: "Freedom of expression means...the freedom to express opinions whatever their impact may be. Public order means...preventing the airing of views and opinion that injure the public, whatever the injury may be. These two values clash therefore head-on. We have to resolve this clash. In resolving it, we must assume that freedom of expression and public order are basic principles of our system. Our existence as a democracy depends on maintaining a delicate balance between them, not in having one overcome the other...it seems to me that the proper balancing formula is that freedom of expression yields only when the injury to the public order is harsh serious and severe. When the injury is not harsh, serious and severe, freedom of expression should be preferred."

"Only rarely can a finding that performing a play in a theater, meant necessarily for a limited and sometimes select audience who comes to see the play on its own initiative, will lead to an

imminent certainty of injuring the public order. Usually one cannot find a basis for more than an apprehension. As noted above, in a democratic society such an apprehension does not suffice to injure freedom of expression."

Barak reaffirmed the need for what he called "near-certainty of public disturbance," to take away freedom of speech, in another decision: in response to controversial Rabbi Meir Kahane, after the Israel Broadcasting Association made it a policy not to broadcast his views. In that decision, Barak said: "Freedom of speech is not just the freedom to express or hear widely accepted views. Freedom of speech is also the freedom to express dangerous, annoying and deviant views, which the public abhors and hates."

"I want to stress again that my legal approach, according to which Petitioner's views and opinions must be broadcast, as long as there is no near certainty of a real injury to the public order, is not based upon agreement with those views and opinions."

"I am not interested in the substance of Petitioner's views but in their right to express them even if I find them unacceptable...The views and opinions of Petitioners make me shudder, but I insist upon their right to express them. In this approach there is no approval of their views. I consider them unacceptable, but my approach validates their right to express such unacceptable views as long as there is no injury to public order."

A.K.S.

mission composed of all of the elements involved in the dispute over the road reached a conclusion, the road would remain open. This decision reignited what has been a long-burning anger against Barak's judicial approach by the religious. His wide interpretation of the Basic Laws that have been passed by the Knesset, are seen by them as threatening the Jewish character of the state. The resentment and opposition is long-standing. But the *yanonai* and the personal nature of the rhetoric expressed in the *haredi* press was unprecedented, one calling Barak "the dangerous enemy of *haredi* Judaism" and another (Continued on Page 9)

The Jerusalem Post  
Russian plane crashes in Arctic, 141 are dead  
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# A sacred mission in which 'no file is ever closed'

## An IDF unit goes to great length to find soldiers missing in battle, Arie O'Sullivan reports

**I**N the midst of the Yom Kippur War there was mass confusion. Soldiers whose units were decimated had joined others to continue the fight. Others fled and still others disappeared in the smoke of combat. And in the midst of this chaos the IDF created a unit to find each and every soldier and return him home, dead or alive. Since that war, the Unit for Soldiers Missing in Action has plodded through archives, met with enemies and carried out archaeological-type digs to bring home the remains of soldiers lost in battle.

The day the IDF announced that the body of Sgt. Ilan Sa'adon, kidnapped, murdered and dumped by Hamas terrorists, was finally found, OC Manpower Maj.-Gen. Gideon Sheffer emphatically declared "no file is ever closed."

"No restrictions were ever imposed on me," said Lt.-Col. Tsila Neumann, commander of the unit. "That's actually our slogan. No file is ever closed until we are successful in finding out what happened to a missing soldier."

She said most of the files deal with soldiers the chaplain general has declared dead but whose place of burial is not known.

The exceptions are Capt. Ron Arad and the three missing soldiers from 1982 battle of Sutan Ya'acoub, Neumann said.

She runs her unit out of a small wooded shack surrounded by the cement headquarters of the IDF's compound in Tel Aviv. Except for a small crew of conscripts who manage the office, most of the unit's members are reservists. They come from various walks of life, ranging from geologists to lawyers and archaeologists.

The unit usually works in secret, quietly, in order not to foster expectations. We don't want to harm families who for so many years are bearing a difficult yoke of not knowing what happened to their dear ones," Neumann said.

A census carried out at the end of the Yom Kippur War quickly located most soldiers, but there remained a group which has never been found.

Following the war and the subsequent peace treaty with Egypt signed in 1979, the unit located and returned dozens of MIAs. But today the IDF does not publish the exact number of MIAs along the Egyptian front. There were no MIAs from the Syrian front, as battles there covered a much smaller area than the fighting in the Sinai and the Syrians were more organized in collecting dead IDF soldiers, said a retired member of the unit who asked not to be named.

"I don't want to deal with figures in this report. Certainly not. But there are less than 20,"

Neumann said. "The missing from the Yom Kippur War on the Egyptian front are on our desks every day in an ongoing investigation. We feel that the more we dig the better the chances are."

But cooperation with the Egyptians suffered a severe blow following reports last year that Israeli soldiers may have killed as many as 1,000 Egyptian prisoners of war in the 1948, 1956 and 1967 wars.

MAJ.-GEN. (res.) Aharon Doron, the Defense Ministry's ombudsman, was given the task of investigating the affair, and his report is expected to be handed over to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai next month. It is up to the defense minister to decide which sections to translate into Arabic for the Egyptians.

It appears the strained relations with Egypt may be softening and Israeli teams will once again be allowed to continue the search for the missing IDF soldiers.

"To our regret this very miserable affair was published," Neumann said. "We know that things [massacring prisoners] which we were not brought up with occurred on both sides. This caused a kind of crisis. But I am certain that our leaders will get us out of it."

This May, Mordechai met with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny and asked the Egyptians to make all efforts to help Israeli teams reopen searches for the bodies of soldiers who went missing in action during the Yom Kippur War.

Bassiouny promised that his country would do so. Neumann proudly presented the case of Capt. Eran Cohen, who was found and brought home for burial in January 1995, before the current crisis with the Egyptians. "We received very nice support from the Egyptians. We were in Egypt to locate Eran Cohen. I believe this support will continue," Neumann said.

Cohen's Phantom F-4 was shot down in a dogfight with Egyptian MIGs on October 11, 1973, after returning from a bombing raid on a target north of Cairo. Both Cohen, the navigator, and pilot Yonatan Ofir were seen to have ejected. Cohen was captured alive after ejecting.

But Egyptian peasants lynched him and literally tore his body to shreds. By the time Egyptian officers showed up there was no corpse left for them to take. Still, the body parts were collected and buried in a field.

Ofir's body was found and returned in 1982. It took another 13 years and numerous searches in the Nile Delta for the unit to find and bring home Cohen's remains. They were located after lengthy interviews with farmers,

who were at first reluctant to speak of the episode. Once the site of the hastily dug grave was located, a team from the unit performed an archaeological-type search by dividing the suspected area into grids and excavating each one.

Besides the reported 18 soldiers missing in the Yom Kippur War, the unit's search list includes looking for the remains of two soldiers from the 1968 battle in Karameh, Jordan, as well as the body of intelligence agent Ya'akov Benkai, who was executed by the Jordanians in 1949.

The search for the 69 sailors who went down with the *Dakar* submarine, however, is being done by the Navy.

"The message is that the state of Israel and the IDF takes care of its soldiers," Neumann said. "We took someone, so we'll make sure we return them... I think this message is very important to those we call to the flag. We don't leave any soldier in the field."

Not all searches are as successful. Neumann said teams work on a case and if they reach a dead end they are replaced by another team. "These are wonderful people who believe in what they are doing and are highly motivated. Anytime I call them, if there is new information, they come running as if I've called them to battle," Neumann said.

"Everyone sees what they are doing here as a mission. I don't mean to say that we are working on all the files all the time. Certainly not. We are working on those where we have enough facts that there is maybe a chance to find the missing person."

"The word despair doesn't exist in our lexicon," Neumann said. "The sky's the limit. Missing soldiers are not always found buried on battlefields. By cross-examining IDF archival records from 1948 with those of the Burial Society and the fledgling Health Ministry, the unit's researchers were able to verify that a soldier buried anonymously in 1948 was MIA Haim Pivlovich. He had disappeared while driving a supply truck to the besieged Gush Etzion settlements during the War of Independence. He had apparently been killed in the battle at Nabi Daniel and buried in an anonymous grave in a military cemetery."

After the battle, Pivlovich's name suddenly disappeared from military lists and this led researchers to trace him to the grave of the nameless soldier. Neumann said an almost equal effort was needed to trace down his two daughters so they could be present when his tombstone was changed.

"We believe that our heritage, when the IDF sends someone off to battle that we have to return them home. This is how we were educated."

"The disciplines we use in the search are very encompassing. Biologists, geographers who know the land, lawyers familiar with research and academics and salt-of-the-earth types,"



A bereaved mother lights a memorial flame at the military cemetery on Mt. Herzl in memory of the sailors who vanished with the submarine. (Isaac Harari)

## The 'Dakar' and its 69 sailors remain unfound

**O**N January 25, 1968, the Navy submarine *Dakar* slipped past Gibraltar into the Mediterranean heading for its ultimate demise on the last leg of its journey from England to Haifa.

A communications officer on board signaled with two short beeps that everything was in order and that was the last anyone ever heard from the submarine and the 69 sailors who disappeared mysteriously with it.

The *Dakar's* emergency buoy washed up a

year after it disappeared on a beach in the Gaza Strip. An analysis of the corrosion on the buoy led the Navy to believe that the submarine was lost along the Egyptian coast. But since Israel was in a state of war with Egypt at the time, a search was impossible until after the 1979 peace treaty led to a series of intensive searches along the Egyptian coast.

These ended in 1986. Since then, the Navy has spent untold millions of shekels in periodically launching unsuccessful searches for the

submarine. These have ranged from the Egyptian coast to near the islands of Rhodes and Crete in the Aegean Sea.

In April, the Oceania company published sonar-generated pictures of what it believes could be the *Dakar* submerged off the Egyptian coast. It is believed the submarine sank deeper than it should have due to human error or a technical malfunction, thus causing its frame to buckle under the weight of the sea. A.O.

Neumann said. Most of the reservists in the unit are in their late 40s and older, which means it is virtually a volunteer unit. Most refused to speak to reporters, fearing any exposure would foil current searches and are extremely reluctant to talk about ongoing cases.

"I won't say how we investigate and who we question. I think it is not healthy for our work and we will continue to keep it secret. Locating missing soldiers [is not work done in a vacuum]. There is a large process with the whole intelligence community supporting us," Neumann said.

He made pains not to criticize the families of MIAs. "Families are allowed to do everything. They live for so many years in a state of uncertainty and that is the most difficult situation. We will do everything to remove this uncertainty and know what happened to the missing."

Relatives of soldiers missing from the Yom Kippur War are hesitant to talk to the press. One wife of a pilot shot down explained they were caught in a purgatory-like situation, where they held criticism bottled up inside them about the pace, effort and success of the search.

But they did not want to risk slamming the door on what they believe is the only body working to bring their loved ones home.

There is at least one family who expressed no interest in the search, coping with the loss by regimenting it to distant memory. All contacted vehemently refused to be quoted or interviewed.

In a number of cases, though, the search for MIAs takes on a national bearing, like that for Sa'adon.

Lt.-Col. (res.) Ariel "Arach" Yehudai is a typical member of the unit. A former reconnaissance officer, Yehudai, 55, is now head

of the unit's branch in the Southern Command. He led the search for Sa'adon in the dunes of Palmachim beach.

"Of course we feel great satisfaction over finally locating Ilan Sa'adon. In essence the whole search for him became a national one," said the balding, fit man in shorts and sandals.

For him, the knowledge an Israeli soldier has that the state will make every effort to bring him home from battle is para-

mount to the fighting spirit "It is inconceivable that a family sends someone off to war and we don't bring him back," Yehudai said.

"I am not a religious man, but I am a Jew and I have a link with everyone in this nation because of that. There is something special in the Jewish religion, and that is the respect for the dead. It starts from that and I feel the IDF in this matter is not far from its Jewish heritage."

## The 18 MIAs from the Yom Kippur War

**T**HERE are reportedly 18 missing soldiers from the Yom Kippur War who have still not been located and returned for burial, according to a retired member of the unit.

A dozen of these were infantrymen, two were from an underwater commando unit and five were pilots.

Following is a capsule of each of these missing soldiers:  
Lt. Miron Althagar, Sgt. Yenko Keller, Cpl. Dan Galit and Cpl. Mutzpeh Chaim. They were members of a tank crew who abandoned their tank on October 6, the day the war broke out, during fighting with the Egyptian forces.

Their tank was located north of the Sinai city of Kantara, but no trace of the crew was ever found.

Lt. Shimon Ben-Dror and Cpl. Ze'ev Pe'er. Their tank was hit on October 6 in the Sinai, east of the Suez Canal facing the Egyptian Third Army. Two members of the tank crew succeeded in rescuing themselves, but Ben-Dror and Pe'er were never found.

Cpl. Mordechai Nadim and Cpl. Leon Cohen. Their tank was also hit on October 6 along the Suez Canal. One member of their four-man crew escaped and made it back to the Israeli forces. Another was taken prisoner. Nadim and Cohen disappeared.

Lt. Israel Dagan, Staff Sgt. Shmuel Dunar, Staff Sgt. Rami Ziv and Staff Sgt. Ya'akov Kaish. Their tank was hit by an anti-armor rocket in the Sinai on October 22. Their remains were

apparently brought to Israel for burial but still in unmarked graves. They are still declared war dead whose place of burial is unknown.

Col. Zorik Lev. He is the most senior officer among the missing. Lev was one of the IAF's legendary pilots who disappeared along the Suez Canal when his Skyhawk jet was hit while on a bombing raid on October 9 east of Port Said. After his jet was hit, Lev apparently did not eject. The Skyhawk slammed into the Mediterranean some eight kilometers northeast of Port Said in a favorite Egyptian fishing spot. In 1990, Israel carried out a massive search for Lev and his jet at a cost of over \$250,000. Nothing was found.

Maj. Shimon Esb. His plane was shot down on October 6, and he was seen to have ejected, but his body has never been found.

Maj. Gad Samuk and Lt. Baruch Golan. Their jet was shot down on October 17, and their bodies were never found.

Cpl. Oded Amir and Master Sgt. Eli Kimchi. Members of the underwater commando unit Shiyet 13, they were on a raid on the night of October 17 in Port Said. They succeeded in blowing up a number of Egyptian warships but were apparently killed by underwater depth charges.

Their bodies were seen being pulled from the water by the Egyptians and even photographed by the Egyptian press. But their bodies were never located or returned. Kimchi was posthumously awarded the medal of valor. A.O.

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The sailors who vanished

...unfound

...from the war

...from the war

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HILA Before Succot

# Policing eastern Jerusalem

### The capital's police force is fighting a battle for the hearts of Palestinian residents in the city, Bill Hutman reports

A Palestinian shopkeeper watched with concern this week as five men carried a young girl into an abandoned building, known as a hangout for drug addicts and criminals, just outside the Old City. He quickly picked up his phone to report what was transpiring to the Jerusalem Police.

A patrol was sent to the scene, and discovered the girl unharmed. The men were friends of her father, who had been waiting for the girl on the other side of the building.

For most police forces, the incident would be soon forgotten. But for the Jerusalem police, fighting a battle for the hearts of the Palestinian residents of the city, it was seen as an important indicator that they were on the right path. "We want the [Palestinian] residents to know that we are present," said Cmdr. Ilan Franco, who oversees operations at the new police station in eastern Jerusalem, just outside the Old City on Salah a-Din Street.

"I am not talking about demonstrating our power, although they must know that we are there to do a job. But we are also there to serve them. We want the residents to know that we are also concerned about their welfare," Franco said.

The call by the shopkeeper concerned about the young girl went directly to the Salah a-Din station,



First Sergeant Major Ghassan Abdel Rahman works at his desk at the Salah a-Din station, the second of two police stations in the Arab sector.

which is officially known as Shalem Station (from one of the biblical names for Jerusalem) and was opened just five months ago. Franco said the proximity of the station to the scene of the incident meant a fast reaction time. It also meant the shopkeeper felt that at the Salah a-Din station, atop the central Post Office in the center of the eastern Jerusalem business district, there was someone nearby who could help.

Until former internal security minister Moshe Shahal officially opened the Salah a-Din station in April, there was only a single police station in the Arab sector, the Kishleh Station in the Old City, which had once served the British and Turkish police.

Israeli authority may have officially been imposed on eastern Jerusalem after the 1967 War, but Israel Police were hardly to be seen. The police's major concern in the Arab sector of the city was maintaining security.

Crime-fighting was a low priority in eastern Jerusalem, and instead, the paramilitary border police dominated the alleyways of the Old City and the dirt roads of the outlying Arab neighborhoods, rather than the crime-fighters in blue, or even in undercover jeans and a t-shirt.

Shahal publicly declared that opening the Salah a-Din station was in part a political move, aimed at showing, at a time that the PA

was trying to make inroads in eastern Jerusalem, that the government remained determined not to relinquish any authority in the city.

Franco, in an interview this week, preferred not to speak about the political motivations behind opening the station. Instead, he, and other officers, emphasized that the station was filling not only a political vacuum, but also a practical, law enforcement one.

"There is a tendency among Arabs to deal with things within their own community," said First Sergeant Major Ghassan Abdel Rahman, or Abu Ghosh, the chief investigator at the Salah a-Din station. "That is what the *sulha* is all about, trying to work things out between families, instead of going to the authorities," Rahman said,

largely independent of Israel's legal system. There are also a vast number of local authorities — *mukhtars* and village councils — that deal with disputes between Palestinian residents.

The Israeli police officers at the Salah a-Din station said they realize what they are up against, and were confident that despite the political and social difficulties with operating in eastern Jerusalem, they would succeed in doing their jobs. The station's record speaks for itself, showing many Palestinian residents filing complaints, and others just contacting the station for help in civilian matters, as happens at police stations around the country, according to Franco.

Franco readily admitted that not every police station has a handful of border policemen outside for security, and will also only send out a patrol if it is accompanied by a border police contingent, also because of fear of attack.

But, he was quick to add, few police stations anywhere operate under the conditions as those on Salah a-Din Street, and as proof it is a success, pointed to figures showing that in its first three and half months the station received over 1,300 calls, and opened 360 investigations.

"I can say quite frankly that I was very of unsure of things in the beginning. But now I'm confident that opening this station was a good idea," Franco said.

## An Arab officer who just serves the public

GHASSAN Abdel Rahman, a 28-year-old officer in the Jerusalem police with ten years of service already under his belt, has chosen a path few men in his position dare.

Most Arab-Isrealis quit the police force at the start of the intifada, when they were labeled collaborators by their brethren in the territories. Several Arab-Isreali policemen were even killed by fellow Arabs for refusing to leave their jobs.

First Sergeant Major Rahman, however, said he is not scared for his own personal safety, and that he is proud of his career in Israel Police. "A couple of years ago, when I was working at the Russian Compound [police station], they asked me to transfer to one of the units that deals with security. "But I said 'no.' That's where I draw the line."

Instead, Rahman chose to stay on in investigations. Today, he is the chief investigator at the new police station on Salah a-Din Street, the first station set up by the Israeli Police in the Arab sector of the city since Jerusalem was reunited in 1967. "I have been working for long enough that most of the residents know me," said Rahman, sitting behind the desk in his third floor office.

Outside, about a dozen Palestinian residents sat on benches, waiting to speak with the chief investigator. "Recently, a person I know as being a major Hamas activist came here for advice on how to deal with an incident that occurred in his family [and that required police intervention]. People know that they can trust me," Rahman added.

"The Jewish and Druse policemen, they can deal with the security issues if they want. That's not my

area. I'm here to serve the public," Rahman said.

Statistics indicate that Rahman is doing his job well. Palestinian residents are increasingly coming to the station, above the main Post Office on Salah a-Din Street, with complaints about crimes they want solved. The success of the station has been so great, said Cmdr. Ilan Franco, that there is a desperate need to increase manpower, particularly in investigations.

Franco, who is in charge of the station, as well as of the Capital Station at the Russian Compound, said the natural choice to fill the slots is eastern Jerusalem residents. When several months ago police advertised in eastern Jerusalem's Arabic press for the posts at Salah a-Din, there were very low expectations.

Franco and other officers believed the political situation was still not ripe for Jerusalem Arabs to join the force. Jerusalem Police, however, received a pleasant surprise. Dozens of Jerusalem Arabs answered the call to join the force. Rahman recalled being overwhelmed by telephone calls in his office for information on how to become a policeman.

The only problem was that not a single one of the applicants to date has qualified. Rahman said he knows why. "I would ask them if they had a [criminal] record, and they would say no. Later, I am sure it was discovered that had been detained before for rock-throwing or some other offense during the intifada."

Franco said he remains determined to expand manpower at the Salah a-Din station with Arab residents of the city. "It is a top priority for us. We know that they would make the best policemen for this station, and there is no reason that they should not join." B.H.

## COURT

(Continued from Page 7)

declaring that: "We must not scatter our ammunition. The battle must be concentrated on that man who is extremely dangerous to democracy and freedom."

These and other attacks — appearing in newspapers that are sanctioned by rabbinic authorities and political parties — have been widely interpreted by those in the government and the media as sanctioning potential assassins to take matters into their own hands, as similar attacks on the late prime minister are still ringing in their ears.

Haredim insist that such interpretations are misplaced. According to haredi journalist Yisrael Eichler, "Haredi education teaches us that it is forbidden to rise up in a physical revolution against the regime. But it also teaches us to heap disgrace on a power that is cut off from Judaism. And that is happening in the haredi press specifically, and by the religious community in general."

The accumulated rage has created an Orthodox consensus of distrust in the rule of the High Court of Justice. Eichler says that Barak is being accused of running a "judicial dictatorship," because the religious community feels as if his power is superseding the influence they feel they won fairly with their recent show of strength in the elections. They feel that they defeated leftist secularists at the polls, but their opponents are now going behind their back to the courts to maintain their power on controversial questions such as Rehov Bar Ilan — hence their portrayal of Barak as an agent of Meretz politicians.

On that point, the haredim are supported by the rest of the religious community, including the national religious camp. "The judicial system cannot take the government into its own hands, even if the results of the democratic election are not to its liking. The government is elected by the people, and the courts, with all due respect, are not elected by the people," said MK Shaul Yahalom of the National Religious Party.

"Yet, even Yahalom and others who object to Barak's decisions recognize the danger of the language being used against Barak. Personal attacks on judges is crossing the red line, which can injure the principles of democracy. We are talking about incitement that on the fringes of our society are people who are capable of seeing it as legitimization of violence."

Moshe Negbi, legal expert in Ma'ariv maintains that the red line that has been crossed with the demonization of Barak in the haredi press is one that divides "legitimate criticism of the government...and criminal incitement...It was permissible to say that Barak's policies were wrong but forbidden to present him as a traitor...It is

permissible to say that Justice Barak's views and decisions are wrong, but forbidden to reject his authority and decisions and to as define him as an 'enemy' and comparing him to one who betrays his countrymen."

As the eye in the midst of the storm of controversy, Barak himself has remained silent. It has been reported that in a special emergency meeting at the Supreme Court, he urged his colleagues to follow suit and not to be dragged into controversy. A response by the Court itself, he argued, would play into the hands of those who were provoking. According to the reports, Barak believes that the wave of anger will soon blow over and saner voices would prevail.

However, many, even those in Barak's ideological camp, doubt this, and worry that continued dissent will erode the Supreme Court's authority.

In an opinion piece in Ha'aretz Professor Shlomo Avineri observed that "in recent years the judicial activism of the High Court of Justice has brought us to the point where a significant portion of the population in Israel (and not just the extreme anti-Zionist haredim) has begun to see the courts as their enemy, and not as a neutral mediator."

He wrote that "a situation like this, in which the Supreme Court is transformed into a side in a controversy, is dangerous. This is what has taken place in the recent decades in the United States, and this has brought vicious reaction from the extreme fundamentalist right...It is impossible to ignore the fact that when the Supreme Court makes decisions in matters of values and morals over which there are legitimate political differences, it is hard to prevent a deterioration in its status."

Whether such deterioration is inevitable and what it will lead to — more pressure for greater religious representation in the judiciary, or reforms in the Israeli judicial system, or violence in some sort of nightmare scenario from a Grisham novel — remains to be seen.

Some are optimistic — pointing to opportunities for dialogue between religious and secular.

Barak has taken the lead by responding favorably to the approach of Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to initiate a dialogue with the haredi community regarding the High Court and Supreme Court's decisions.

Others are less so. Former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn, who came out vocally in support of Barak this week, said that "There is no solution, because there is no common language, and there cannot be at this stage. I'm pessimistic. We are in the midst of an extremely cruel cultural war and all of us will be its victims, both those who come out victorious and those who are defeated."

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# The war of the messiahs heats up

## Menachem Mendel Schneerson — was he or wasn't he? Opposing Lubavitch factions battle it out, Marilyn Henry reports from NY

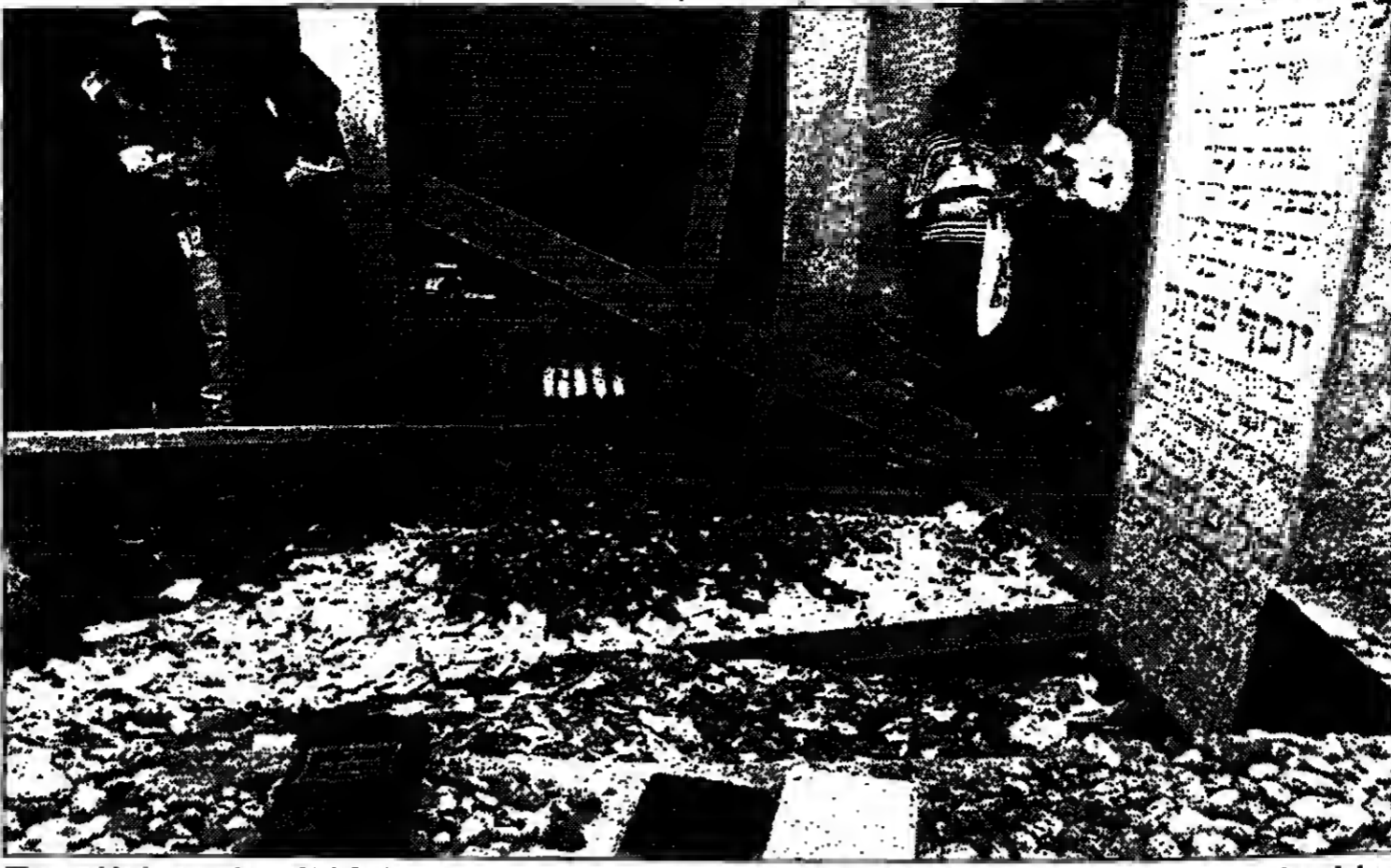
ZALMAN Posner reveals no doubts. "Should we continue with the 'moshiach' campaign? Yes," said Posner, the rabbi of the Lubavitch congregation Shearith Israel in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Should we associate it with a particular person? The answer [is] a vigorous no," Posner belongs to that part of the Lubavitch community that does not call the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the messiah. His is a quiet faction. Instead, it is the energetic, media-savvy messianists who command attention and, increasingly, mainstream angst.

"We live in a free country, and everyone is entitled to his opinion," said Posner, the authorized translator of several Habad classics, including two portions of the Tanya, the basic text of the Lubavitcher movement.

The moshiach campaign, which had already been simmering for several years during the time Schneerson was incapacitated, has been boiling since the Rebbe died on June 24, 1994.

It has led to something of a free-for-all — what headline writers have dubbed the "moshiach war" — that began to flare nearly a year ago. David Berger, a Brooklyn College historian, ignited the debate last fall with an essay published in *Jewish Action*, the publication of the Union of Orthodox



The moshiach campaign, which had already been simmering for several years during the time Schneerson was incapacitated, has been boiling since the Rebbe died on June 24, 1994. His New York gravestone is continuously visited by followers. (Jonathan Torgovnik)

that faction is widely estimated to be less than 20 percent of the community. Equally small, observers say, is the so-called anti-messianist faction. Most Lubavitchers are believed to fall in the broad, hazy center, which, one pundit said, means "the Rebbe may or may not be the messiah, but I don't want to discuss it."

However small it may be, the messianic faction seems impossible to avoid. It has the funds to mount a massive public relations blitz in outdoor, television and newspaper ads. "If they have access to microphones and if they have access to billboards and if they have access to the *New York Times*, then they are saying what they want. That is not necessarily Lubavitch," Posner said, adding, "I think they are in an intense state of denial that frankly we thought would dissipate. It has not dissipated."

The fervor, in fact, seems to be getting more intense, said Allan Nadler, an Orthodox rabbi and the director of research at YIVO and a long-time critic of Lubavitch messianism. "Now that the Rebbe is dead, it's gotten a little too close to Christianity," said Nadler. "It is coming to feel like and smell like a Christian approach to messianism."

Some in the Lubavitch community apparently believe the Rebbe, who is buried in a Queens cemetery, is still alive. Others believe he will be resurrected to complete a process of redemption, which sounds eerily like the Second Coming of Jesus.

THE VARIETIES of Lubavitch messianism have been seen alternately as a curiosity, an amusement, a farce, a source of embarrassment or an occasion for contempt. But not too many American Jews seemed to take it all that seriously. That galloped Berger and Nadler.

"It is very tempting to use the word 'meshuga's,'" said Berger, a historian of Jewish-Christian polemics. "We have this Jewish instinct that this is crazy, but this is a belief held by a large percentage of the world." Believing that the Lubavitcher is the messiah "is no more irrational than the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was resurrected, ascended bodily to heaven, and will one day return to redeem the world," according to Berger.

In Israel, Rabbi Eliezer Schach — a leader of the Lithuanian, anti-Hassidic, school of thought — long ago assailed the messianic activity of Habad as "apostasy" and "vain and stupid beliefs."

In January 1993, the newspaper affiliated with Schach attacked segments of Lubavitch for their "attempt to spread their false messianism."

But in the US, so too in the Orthodox world seemed cooed about the messianic campaign. "Face it: Jews live comfortably. There is a State of Israel. You can hop on a plane and go to

Jerusalem. Antisemitism was not a problem," Nadler said. "All the pressures that led people to anticipate the messiah don't exist anymore. So when a false messiah comes along, it wasn't taken seriously."

There also are practical reasons that mainstream Orthodox leaders and institutions were not inclined to challenge Lubavitch. Not only do many admire Lubavitch for its apparent success in attracting alienated Jews, they also rely on Habad for its far-flung network that could guarantee everything from a minyan in Bangkok to kosher food virtually anywhere in the world.

Finally, the Orthodox are "uncomfortable saying that a major movement in Judaism has turned into a deviant sect," Nadler said.

The spokesman for the Lubavitch messianic group, the International Campaign to Bring Moshiach, Rabbi Shmuel Butman of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, declined a request for an interview, saying, "I think this is an old story."

However, Butman told the *New York weekly newspaper The Forward*: "Our belief in the Rebbe's coming back is steeped in classic Jewish teachings, and just because the gentiles have adopted those teachings, with some revisions, as the main cornerstone for their own philosophy, we shouldn't, God forbid, abandon them."

At Agudas Hassidei Habad, which has become the lead Lubavitch institution since Schneerson's death, a spokesman declined to comment. Asked to identify the accepted Lubavitch view on the rebbe-as-messiah, the spokesman referred to newspaper ads, published several months ago, that say the messianists' views are "misleading and a grave offense to the dignity and expressed desires of the rebbe."

Many sources in the Orthodox community — mainstream, Lubavitch and haredi — said they thought the Lubavitch messianic view was dangerous and misguided, but that it was not beyond the pale. These sources, all of whom refused to be identified, also said that, rather than dwelling on the messianists, Lubavitch should be praised for struggling against Jewish ignorance and assimila-

financial support only to those Lubavitch institutions that oppose the messianists.

Enter Soloveitchik, who also heads the Brisk Yeshiva in Chicago. He objected to one Jew criticizing another, even though no names were mentioned in the RCA resolution. In the course of trying to make peace, he appeared to support Lubavitch messianic claims.

"Any cynical attempt at utilizing a legitimate disagreement of interpretation regarding this matter [messianism] to besmirch and damage the Lubavitch movement — that was and continues to be in the forefront of those battling the missionaries, assimilation and indifference — can only contribute to the regrettable discord plaguing the Jewish community," Soloveitchik said in a statement.

Butman, in turn, used the statement to support his messianist view. This was not what Soloveitchik intended. The rabbi was condemning "public attacks on the Lubavitch movement without intending to endorse the particular views that were under attack," said David Luchins, a prominent New York Orthodox Jew who has emerged as a spokesman for Soloveitchik.

That distinction, however, appears to have been lost on Jews for Jesus, which reportedly dubbed Soloveitchik the "tsaddik of Chicago." "Perhaps one of the greatest and most well-known rabbis of America, Aharon Soloveitchik, declared that indeed the messiah could die and rise from the dead, that this could be deduced from Jewish holy books," said David Brickner, executive director of the missionary group.

"And of course we take that opportunity to teach the gospel, because we want Jewish people to know that not only does it teach that the messiah can die and rise from the dead, it teaches in the scriptures that the messiah did die and rise from the dead," Brickner said recently in an interview on a Christian talk-radio station in New York.

"His name is Yeshua, Jesus, and he's coming back again to complete world redemption which he began when he died on the cross and rose again 2,000 years ago."

In Crown Heights, Friedman sees an unacceptable convergence between Jewish and Christian messianic activity. He used to be offended when Christian missionaries plastered messianic signs and stickers in the neighborhood. "Nowadays," he said, "the sticker could have been put up by a Lubavitch messianist."

Officials at the Lubavitch world headquarters in Crown Heights decline to publicly state the official messianic belief, and do not actually distance themselves from the belief that Schneerson is the messiah. Lubavitch apparently now accepts that a once-disciplined movement that would not deviate from the terms of its rebbe will tolerate anarchy from within. And, however wounded it may be, Lubavitch appears to be willing to watch passively as mainstream Orthodoxy attempts to distance itself, however timidly, from Lubavitch as long as that messianism intrudes on core Jewish beliefs.

None can predict the durability of the Lubavitch messianism. But Berger noted that perhaps Lubavitch ultimately will become marked as a "pariah movement."

"A profound, tragic irony would follow," he wrote. "Through the misguided efforts of his own followers, one of the great leaders of 20th-century Jewry would be remembered primarily as a failed messiah."

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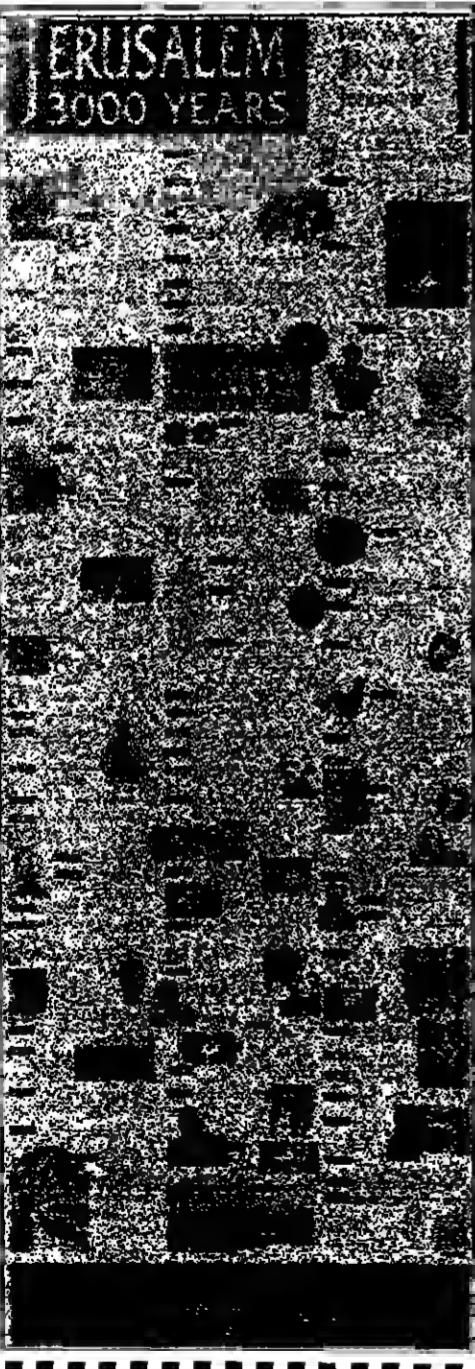
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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, August 30, 1996

## Honey, I shrank the bids

AT a time when deficits are ballooning, bond markets are teetering and the shekel conquers oxygen-less summits, it is refreshing to see the economically healthy competition raging over chunky stakes in some of Israel's major corporations.

ON THE AGENDA  
AMOTZ ASA-EL

scape by forcing banks to shed specified parts of their holdings according to an unambiguous schedule.

newly excessive holdings would never elicit the kind of bids which would justify selling them.

The markets, however, sent an entirely different message this week. Dovrat-Shrem yesterday bid for nearly twice as much as the stock exchange value of the 23% stake it is seeking in Hapoalim Investment, and the Wertheimer-Zisser team has raised some NIS 80 million in its attempt to wrest a chunk of Africa Israel.

## Dovrat-Shrem wins Hapoalim Investment tender

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Dovrat-Shrem investor group submitted the highest bid for Bank Hapoalim's surplus stake in the Hapoalim Investment holding company, the bank yesterday announced.

Group's NIS 198m. bid for 23% stake slightly higher than Dankner's

by the end of this year, and then to 20% by the end of 1999. Dovrat-Shrem's bid for NIS 197.8 million, or NIS 160 per share, assumed a total company value of some \$277m., which is nearly twice as high as Hapoalim Investments' current market value at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

thus outflanked leading contender businessman Shmuel Dankner, who had previously accumulated a 15% stake in Hapoalim Investments, but whose bid in yesterday's tender was reportedly some \$25m. short of Dovrat-Shrem's bid.

Dankner Industries and Israel Salt Industries. A third participant in the tender was the Steinmiz family, which is a dominant player in the diamond industry. Hapoalim Investments is one of Israel's five largest holding companies, with diversified interests spanning the industrial, communications, trade, financial services and real estate sectors.

## IMF team arrives next week

SENIOR International Monetary Fund representatives will be carrying out their annual inspection in Israel next week. The five-member team, which includes IMF European and fiscal department members, will be headed by the deputy director of the European section Michael Deppler.

DAVID HARRIS  
ment will be issued while the delegation is still here. On its return to Washington the group will write a longer, more comprehensive report for consideration by IMF directors.

underlying inflation, along with costly government financial rescue packages. The IMF warned these were stifling the economy's prospects. The report called for a balanced economic policy requiring fiscal restraint to curb domestic demand, and to avoid putting the whole onus on interest rate policy.

BANK Leumi yesterday purchased another five percent of Africa Israel's shares, in an effort to block the Wertheimer-Zisser group from raising its holding in the company to 25%.

The latest acquisition comes one day after Bank Leumi purchased 5% of Africa Israel's shares for about NIS100m. The shares were purchased from institutional investors, including Bank Hapoalim.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

transaction to spin-off Migdal, a subsidiary company, from Africa Israel will be approved at Africa Israel's general shareholders meeting in three weeks. At the meeting, Bank Leumi needs the approval of at least 75% of Africa Israel shareholders.

If the Wertheimer and Zisser consortium manage to purchase 25% of Africa Israel's stock, it could block Leumi's spin-off plans and prevent Bank Leumi's sale of 40% of Migdal to Assicurazioni. Earlier this week, Migdal reported a second quarter net profit of NIS19.79m, compared with a net profit of NIS17.63m in the corresponding period last year.

half of the year, in connection with a plea agreement to be signed with the Attorney General related to insurance companies' engagement in a cartel. Africa Israel completed the second quarter of 1996 with a sharp drop in earnings, to a net loss of NIS3.77m, compared with a net profit of NIS20.64m. Net profits for the first six months of the year more than halved to NIS17.66m, compared with NIS42.29m.

## Further reduction of import duties in 'exposure program' due next week

IMPORT duties on a wide range of goods will be lowered from Sunday, the Customs and VAT Department reported yesterday. This is the latest stage in the government's so-called "exposure program" aimed at confronting the business of local producers with increased foreign competition.

DAVID HARRIS  
These include iron piping, medicines, ventilator systems, suitcases and other bags, purses and wallets, telephones, spectacles and refrigerators.

Despite the doubts expressed by industrialists, the scheme is leading to the development of Israeli markets and more competitive prices, he added. The program, which began in September 1991, has gradually been lowering import duties from up to hundreds of percentage points down to levels comparable with those of other

Western countries. Within the next four years, the remainder of the program will be implemented, with reductions in duty coming into effect in September 1998 and 2000. Among the "goods" facing reductions in two years are footwear, glassware, wood, and electric cables. The program will end with the lowering of duty on textiles in four years.

## Hapoalim profits steady; Leumi's up 38%

BANK Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, completed the second quarter of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 203.8 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 205.9m in the corresponding period last year. Net profits for the first six months of the year fell 5.2 percent to NIS 407.8m. Net return on equity on an annual basis decreased to 11.8% in the first six months, compared with 13.3% in the corresponding period last year.

COMPANY RESULTS  
GALIT LIPKIS BECK  
Net profits for the first six months of the year fell 20.2% to NIS 217.1m. Net return on equity on an annual basis fell to 6.6% compared with 8.7%. Key factors which contributed to the bank's earnings included a sharp rise in earnings from extraordinary transactions, to NIS 50.4m, compared with NIS

132m. The increase was mainly due to the New York subsidiary's sale of four branches. Provisions for doubtful debts decreased 25.6% in the first half to NIS 227m. Income from financing activities before provision for doubtful debts increased 1% to NIS 1.5bn. Operating and other income remained virtually unchanged at NIS 1b. Management said there was no change in commission fees during the reported period.

## New Zim ship arrives in Haifa

DAVID RUDGE  
THE Zim shipping company yesterday held a reception to mark the arrival in Haifa of the latest addition to its fleet - the \$60 million Zim Pacific. The huge vessel is the second in a series of eight new container ships ordered by Zim, which are due to be completed by the end of November 1997. Overall, Zim is investing \$800 million on updating its fleet to meet the demands of modern shipping requirements.

"Ships are not built for one or two years," said Morgenstern, whose company registered a profit of \$4.2 million so far this year. He noted that under agreements with the Seaman's Union, Zim would continue to employ Israelis as 97.5 percent of the crew aboard its solely owned vessels. The latest additions, including Zim Pacific, require fewer crew members than in the past because of their computerized control and maintenance systems. Zim Pacific Capt. Moshe Bravman noted that as a captain aboard a ship in 1974, he commanded a crew of 42. The Zim Pacific, however, he said, would sail with a crew of 20 - 17 Israelis and three foreigners - as part of its regular 105-day route from Haifa to the US and, via the Panama Canal, to the Far East.

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|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000)   | 4.750    | 4.375    | 5.375     |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 3.875    | 4.000    | 4.125     |
| German mark (DM 200,000)  | 1.750    | 1.875    | 2.250     |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000)  | 1.000    | 1.125    | 1.500     |
| Yen (10 million yen)      | -        | -        | -         |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

### Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (29.8.96)

| CHECKS AND TRANSFERS    | BANKNOTES |        | Rep. Rates** |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|
|                         | Buy       | Sell   |              |
| Currency basket         | 3.5107    | 3.5674 | 3.5394       |
| U.S. dollar             | 3.1144    | 3.1647 | 3.21         |
| German mark             | 2.1085    | 2.1426 | 2.07         |
| French franc            | 4.8544    | 4.9327 | 4.77         |
| Japanese yen (100)      | 0.8154    | 0.8254 | 0.60         |
| Dutch florin            | 2.8776    | 2.8241 | 2.82         |
| Swiss franc             | 1.8799    | 1.9103 | 1.84         |
| Swedish krona           | 2.8073    | 2.8494 | 2.56         |
| Norwegian krona         | 0.4700    | 0.4778 | 0.48         |
| Denish krona            | 0.4880    | 0.4898 | 0.47         |
| Finland mark            | 0.5485    | 0.5543 | 0.53         |
| Belgian franc (10)      | 0.6963    | 0.7076 | 0.68         |
| Canadian dollar         | 2.2787    | 2.3155 | 2.23         |
| Australian dollar       | 2.4684    | 2.5082 | 2.42         |
| S. African rand         | 0.8811    | 0.9023 | 0.82         |
| Irish punt              | 1.0238    | 1.0404 | 1.00         |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.9984    | 3.0448 | 2.94         |
| Italian lira (1000)     | 2.0581    | 2.0913 | 2.02         |
| Jordanian dinar         | 4.3300    | 4.5300 | 4.33         |
| Egyptian pound          | 0.8900    | 0.9600 | 0.89         |
| ECU                     | 3.8880    | 4.0300 | -            |
| Irish punt              | 5.0478    | 5.1293 | 4.86         |
| Spanish peseta (100)    | 2.4916    | 2.5318 | 2.44         |

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Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark exchange rates against NIS.

NY STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed in NY, including Am & P, Anet, and various technology companies.

Commodity trading table listing various commodities and their prices.

INTEL-MONEY MARKETS

Table of dollar crossrates (USD) for various currencies.

Libor rates table showing interest rates for different maturities.

Table of foreign financial data including futures, options, and mutual funds.

NY COMMODITIES AND METALS

Table of US commodities including corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Table of London commodities including oil, sugar, and coffee.

Table of spot market metals including gold, silver, and platinum.

Table of New York metal futures including aluminum, copper, and zinc.

Table of London metal fixes including gold, silver, and platinum.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table with Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading columns.

Table of commercial banks and financial institutions.

Table of industrial stocks.

Table of mortgage banks and finance companies.

Table of investment companies.

Table of trade and services companies.

Table of property, building, and agriculture companies.

Table of parallel list trade and services companies.

Table of property, building, and agriculture companies.

Table of oil exploration companies.

Table of oil exploration companies.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and markets.

STOCKS END SHARPLY LOWER

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended sharply lower yesterday as Wall Street was increasingly nervous about the rally in long-term interest rates above 7 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended down 64.73 points at 5,647.65 after being down nearly 90 points in the broader market, declining issues beat advances 16-7 on moderate volume of 323 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

PARIS (Reuters) - The Paris bourse closed down 1.27 percent as the US figures pulled interest rate worries from concerns that French unions were preparing to challenge the conservative government in the autumn over its social and economic policies.

LONDON (Reuters) - LONDON bourses fell sharply yesterday because of renewed US inflation fears, with French stocks falling the most, dragged down by additional worries over industrial unrest in the autumn.

Indexes up on Hapoalim earnings

STOCKS rose, led by Bank Hapoalim's report of steady second-quarter earnings, and an announcement by Mofet that it would benefit from the sale of a company in which it has an interest.

Table showing index changes for the Two-Sided Index (up 0.67%) and Maof Index (up 0.80%).

The Two-Sided Index rose 0.87 percent to 181.31, preliminary figures showed, while the Maof Index advanced 0.6% to 192.36.

The most active stock was Koor Industries, down 1.75% on NIS 6.8 million of shares traded. Yesterday, the holding company reported second-quarter earnings rose 26%.

"You look at the screen and you see some hard green," said Idan Azoulay, portfolio manager at Impact Securities.

His reference: rising stocks show up in green on the stock exchange feed here. And investors are paying real money for companies that analysts insist are undervalued.

Israel Crp. said today that it closed the purchase of the rest of its Piryon subsidiary. The company paid 35% over the market price at the time it made the offer for Piryon.

Mofet jumped 10% the day limit, as US Robotics Corp. purchased Scorpio Communications for \$72m. Mofet, an investment company, held 7.5% of Scorpio. Mofet also holds an interest in Orekit Communications, which registered its initial public offering in Washington Wednesday.

"It legitimizes" the idea that "current prices don't reflect the real value" of Israeli companies, Azoulay said. (Bloomberg)

US inflation fears hit European bourses

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses fell sharply yesterday because of renewed US inflation fears, with French stocks falling the most, dragged down by additional worries over industrial unrest in the autumn.

The anxiety over potential French industrial strife and the timetable for the single European currency also hit the franc, which fell to a five-month low against the mark before recovering.

The dollar was the one bright spot, strengthening against the mark as figures yesterday showed the US economy doing better than expected, rekindling talk of higher interest rates.

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CURRENCY CROSS-RATES table showing exchange rates for various currencies.



Russian plane crashes in Arctic, 141 are dead

(Reuters) - An airliner carrying 141 people crashed into a mountain yesterday in the remote Arctic island...

Norwegian officials on Monday rejected a report that five people survived when the Tupolev crashed as it approached the island's only airport.

All 141 people are confirmed to have died in the crash, which would be the worst in Norwegian history.

The island governor's office said no survivors had been found. This is totally unknown to us, it said.

The airplane, which was owned by a company called "Dov Air", was flying from Oslo to the island.

The accident occurred in bad weather 10 km east of the island. The jet crashed in a remote area, with no roads near it.

Survivors have been found and the first aid staff are returning from the crash site, local official Kjell Arne Sunde reported.

The plane had been chartered by a mining company. The Norwegian aviation authority said the plane was flying a normal instrument flight and was in touch with the Oslo airport when it crashed.

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**UNREST**

(Continued from Page 1)

telling drivers to get off the roads. In Bethlehem, some merchants said police told them that if they opened, they would be fined. Shops in Manger Square, which frequently opened during intifada strike days to cater to tourists, were all closed.

In Hebron, where the IDF is still in control, some shops and the market remained open.

"The strike today is largely symbolic and is the first step in an overall plan," PA Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi told reporters.

Nafez Rifal, a member of the Fatah Higher Committee, said that the steps taken so far, including a recommendation by the Palestinian Council to suspend all official contacts with the Israeli government, were initiated by Fatah.

The Fatah Higher Committee is considering other measures, including escalating the strikes, taking non-violent but active measures to prevent settlement-building, demanding a halt to relations between Arab states and Israel, and an Islamic campaign on behalf of Jerusalem.

Violence is apparently also an option, if other steps fail. "We can escalate measures if the Israelis don't respond or if they force an intifada on us," Rifal said.

Friday afternoon prayers are traditionally the most crowded at Al-Aksa. The size of today's crowd is largely dependent on whether a stricter closure is imposed, security sources said.

"We will not allow inciters onto the Temple Mount... If we have to we will use force, but I hope we will not have to," Kahalani

said, after an afternoon meeting in Tel Aviv with Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, and deputy Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy.

Hefetz said police would not allow protest marches by Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem today.

"We will give maximum freedom to worshippers without risking the possibility of rioting, and we hope that police will not be forced to enter the Temple Mount, which we would interpret as an extreme step," said Hefetz. "We will not allow processions in the streets, which may lead to disturbances."

Those who have no authorization to enter Jerusalem will not be allowed to enter, he added, and roadblocks will be manned by both police and the IDF. The security forces have been gathering intelligence information to prevent any potential disturbances or attacks.

Kahalani met yesterday with other police brass yesterday to discuss stringent security arrangements. Kahalani stressed that water cannons and mounted horses would be used only "if there is no choice."

Kahalani blasted Arafat for urging "all Arabs to flock to the Temple Mount this morning."

"The warming up of relations between us and the Palestinians was a positive one," said Kahalani, "and Arafat is making a mistake. We are complying with two of Arafat's requests - the withdrawal from Hebron and a meeting with the prime minister. All in all, the peace process is going in the right direction and I don't understand Arafat's attempt to create some sort of escalation."

**TOP 10**

(Continued from Page 1)  
place this time - out of some 4,000 newspapers, magazines, newsletters and news services available over the Internet. Eight out of the latest top 10 are US-based news organizations.

The Post came in after The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, CNN Interactive, USA Today and CNN Interactive, The Christian Science Monitor, The Electronic Science Monitor, Telegraph, and The Wall Street Journal. Among the pioneer news media that dropped out of the previous reader survey's top 10 were HotWired, CNet Online, Boston.Com and Nando.Net.

Thousands of votes were cast for the best online news suppliers, and participants, including numerous journalists, were asked to fill out detailed questionnaires. AJR NewsLink, published by the University of Maryland Foundation, is the premier rating organization for news media presented on the Internet.

"Our selection demonstrates the importance of the Post as the only English-language daily published in Israel, which takes pains to be balanced and scrupulously observe principles of journalistic ethics," commented Post president and publisher Yehuda Levy. "Our year-old Internet edition has become prominent due to the efforts of a small number of staffers and the investment of a minimum of resources."

"With other Hollinger newspapers, we intend to transform this popularity into a source of income," he continued. "This requires overcoming the psychological barriers and selling ads through our Internet Edition, as well as personalized versions of the newspaper sent to the subscriber's e-mail address."

Post managing editor Jeff Barak added that unlike some of the other Web sites, the Post Internet edition "contains just news, not gimmicks. That is apparently what people interested in Israel, the Middle East and the Jewish people want."

Nina Keren-David, director of electronic publishing at the paper, noted that "our Internet edition reaches large numbers of well-educated, computer-literate young Jews around the world who might ordinarily not become acquainted with the printed paper. The online edition certainly is narrowing the gap between Israel and the Diaspora."

The high rating proves that the world's top news story is the Middle East, said Derek Fattal, the deputy head of electronic publishing at the Post.

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הלאה מן האל

TOP 10 (Continued from Page 1) face this time - out of some 400 newspapers, magazines, weekly news and news services available over the Internet. Eight out of the latest top 10 are US-based news organizations.

The Post came in after The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN Interactive, USA Today, Time, and ahead of the Chronicle Science Monitor, The Electronic London Daily Telegraph, The Wall Street Journal, the pioneer news media site dropped out of the previous week's survey's top 10 were HotWired, CNet Online, Boston.Com and NandO.Net.

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Post managing editor left behind that unlike some of other Web sites, the Post edition "contains just news gimmicks. That is, we are what people interested in the Middle East and the Jewish world want."

With Karen David, once vice president of publishing at the Post, the Post Internet edition has large numbers of subscribers, comparable to the print edition. The Post's online edition cannot be downloaded with the print edition because of the cap on bandwidth.



GOING DOWN - England's Paul Gascoigne (r) attempts a sliding tackle on Alan Shearer during a training session yesterday. (Reuters)

## Batty, Ferdinand, Gascoigne expected to be ready for qualifier

LONDON (Reuters) - David Batty was winning his fitness battle yesterday ahead of England's opening World Cup qualifier against Moldova on Sunday.

Batty, recalled by new coach Glenn Hoddle after more than a year in the international wilderness, was unable to train at the start of the week after spraining an ankle in Newcastle's shock home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

But Hoddle said the combative midfielder was making rapid strides in his recovery. "I think it's now 60-40 in his favor, but obviously it will have to be down to the boy himself, David has come through two sessions, yesterday and today, although we have had to protect him a bit."

Batty's Newcastle team mate Les Ferdinand and Rangers midfielder Paul Gascoigne proved their recovery from respective toe and Achilles heel problems that had sidelined them at the start of the week.

But international midfielder Paul Ince and Tottenham striker Teddy Sheringham were unable to train after picking up minor injuries. "It's just an ankle with one of them and a thigh with the other. They'll be fit to train tomorrow. It's just slight problems," said Hoddle.

Hoddle said there were no worries over Manchester United central defender Gary Pallister, who was ruled out of Euro 96 because of a troublesome back injury.

"He got a knee in his hack against Blackburn on Sunday, and when he started rubbing it people reacted by thinking it had gone again. "But he says he's fine, and he's certainly shown that with his movements in training."

## Slumping Yankees blow their cool in Seattle High-flying Bosox surge deeper into AL East pennant race with another win

SEATTLE (AP) - Paul O'Neill, Darryl Strawberry and the slumping New York Yankees brawled with Seattle as the Mariners swept their three-game series with a 10-2 win on Wednesday night.

Jay Buhner hit a three-run homer, and Alex Rodriguez, Mark Whiten and Doug Strange also homered as Seattle gave the Yankees their first four-game losing streak this season.

New York, which once led the division by 12 games, held its four-game edge over Baltimore. Boston, however, closed within six games.

The Mariners moved within 5 1/2 games of Texas in the AL West, and pulled within one game of Baltimore in the wild-card race.

O'Neill was upset that Tim Davis' first pitch was high and inside, and began talking to Mariners catcher John Marzano.

Marzano then punched O'Neill and threw a punch that missed, and both players wrestled to ground. The benches and huddles cleared and, when it seemed like things had calmed down, Strawberry wound up in the middle of another altercation with several Mariners.

O'Neill and Strawberry were ejected, as were Bobby Ayala, Chris Bosio and Marzano of the Mariners. None of the players appeared to be injured.

Yankees reliever Jeff Nelson hit Joey Cora with the first pitch in the bottom of the eighth, and was ejected.

Tom Gordon pitched a five-hitter and John Valentin drove in two runs as visiting Boston defeated California to complete a three-game sweep.

Boston has won 22 of its last 28 games, including five straight, to climb within two games of Baltimore for the wild-card spot and pull within six games of AL East leader New York.

Gordon (10-6) struck out three and walked four in his fourth complete game.

The Red Sox rocked Shawn Boskie (12-7) for five consecutive singles in the second to build a 4-0 lead.

## Graf thunders into third round Stich, Enqvist, Novotna advance

NEW YORK (AP) - Top-seeded Steffi Graf hattered Austria's Karin Kschwendt 6-2, 6-1 yesterday in her rush towards the defense of her US Open title.

With the 52-minute victory, Graf moved into the third round, where her next opponent will be Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 winner over Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Graf showed no signs of personal worries or health problems in her one-sided meeting with Kschwendt.

In an interview published in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung yesterday, Graf said she considered skipping the US Open because it coincided with the opening of her father's tax evasion trial in Germany. Peter Graf's trial will open next Thursday, three days before the women's title match.

Graf, in the interview said: "It's an unfortunate date, but I am a little bit calmer now."

Graf also said a painful left calf muscle also made her consider withdrawing from the US Open.

Peter Graf, who for years acted as his daughter's manager and has been in jail since August 1995, and family tax adviser Joachim Eckardt are accused of evading taxes on \$28 million of Steffi Graf's income between 1989 and 1993. Both men face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

In a battle of former Grand Slam tournament champions yesterday, Spain's Sergi Bruguera defeated Michael Stich of Germany to gain a third-round berth.

Bruguera, who won the French Open in 1993 and 1994, ousted the 1991 Wimbledon winner 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to kick off Day 4 at the National Tennis Center.

Another second-round match winner was 13th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, who downed France's Guillaume Raoux 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, and Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, 7-6(7-5), 7-6(9-7), 6-0 over Spain's Alberto Berasategui.

Also yesterday, women's seventh-seeded Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic beat Argentina's Florencia Labat, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Capturing women's second-round matches were No. 14 Barbara Paulus of Austria, No. 17 Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, Italy's Rita Grande, Austria's Sandra Dopfer, Petra Langrova of the Czech Republic, Belgium's Els Callens and Russia's Elena Likhovtseva and Anna Koumnikova.

Stich, who has 18th in the world rankings, had no answers to the problems presented him by Bruguera, who reached the fourth round here two years ago.

"Overall, I feel very tired," Stich said. "I don't know what it is. Probably everything together. The whole year just coming down."

## Graham snubs Manchester City

FORMER Arsenal boss George Graham turned down a chance to return to management after 18 months in the cold when he rejected an offer to take over at English First Division Manchester City yesterday.

"I was very pleased to be approached but, after careful thought, have decided to decline their very fair offer as I do not think it is right for me at this time," he said.

## Toto Cup action takes center stage National team ready for match against Stoichkov-less Bulgaria

NATIONAL League soccer action takes a one-week break after just one week of play last weekend as the national team prepares for its World Cup qualifying match with Bulgaria on Sunday at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan at 6 p.m.

Toto Cup action returns to the fore for another weekend with a partial round of fixtures, with the clubs with the bulk of players in the national and under-21 squads - Maccabi Tel Aviv, Maccabi Haifa - and their opponents Ironi Rishon and Hapoel Beit She'an not playing.

The national squad returned for its preparations yesterday afternoon with all 20 players back in action under coach Shlomo Sharf.

The Bulgarian squad arrives from Sofia today and their star attraction, Hristo Stoichkov will not be on the plane. There had been speculation over the past two weeks as to whether the Barcelona striker would be included in the Bulgarian lineup after he expressed his unwillingness to play. Yesterday it was confirmed that he would not be coming.

The international action begins tomorrow with the under-21 sides clashing at Herzliya at 8 p.m.

## ELP! Science

ELP! Science is a new... (text is partially obscured and illegible)

UNICATOR... (text is partially obscured and illegible)

Table containing various sports statistics including National League Leaders, American League Leaders, National League Standings, American League Standings, Wild Card Standings, and National League Results.

